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DAGGETT
An Eulogium.

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AN
Eulogium,
COMMEMORATIVE OF THE
EXALTED VIRTUES
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
ROGER GRISWOLD,
LATE GOVERNOUR OF THIS STATE.

WRITTEN AND DELIVERED AT THE REQUEST OF THE

General Assembly,

On the 29th of October, 1812;

AND BY THEM DIRECTED TO BE PRINTED.

BY DAVID DAGGETT,
A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL.



NEW-HAVEN,
PRINTED AND SOLD BY WALTER & STEELE.

1812.

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THIS Eulogium, written in the few hours intervening between the request of the General Assembly, and the time appointed for the services of the day, under the combined pressure of the business of the writer in the Legislature and of his professional employment, is presented to the public as delivered.

At a General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, holden at New-Haven, in said State, on the second Thursday of October 1812:

ORDERED, That the Honourable ELIZUR GOODRICH, and Messrs. HUBBARD, CALDWELL, and A. SMITH, return the thanks of this Assembly to the Honourable DAVID DAGGETT, for the Eulogium this day delivered by him in Testimony of Respect to the Memory of His Excellency Governour GRISWOLD, the late Chief Magistrate of this State; and request a Copy thereof that it may be printed.

A true Copy of record,
Examined by

THOMAS DAY, *Secretary.*

COMMITTEE ROOM, }
Oct. 30, 1812. }

DEAR SIR,

IT gives us pleasure to present to you the inclosed order of the General Assembly, with their thanks for the excellent Eulogium, delivered by you yesterday, commemorative of the exalted Worth of His Excellency the late Chief Magistrate of this State. In soliciting a copy of it for the Press, we unite our personal wishes, with those expressed by the Legislature.

We are, Dear Sir, very respectfully,
Your humble servants,

ELIZUR GOODRICH,
ELIJAH HUBBARD,
JOHN CALDWELL,
AARON SMITH.

Hon. DAVID DAGGETT.

New-Haven Oct. 30, 1812.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE received your polite letter, inclosing a resolution of the General Assembly, and expressing their thanks for the Eulogium, delivered by their order, with a view to commemorate the exalted Worth of His Excellency Governour GRISWOLD.

I transmit to you a Copy of it, in compliance with your request, made in behalf of the General Assembly.

And am with sentiments of respect and esteem,
Your humble servant,

DAVID DAGGETT.

Hon. ELIZUR GOODRICH, and Messrs. HUB- }
BARD, CALDWELL, and A. SMITH. }

Eulogium.

MY FELLOW CITIZENS,

GOVERNOR GRISWOLD died at *Norwich* on the last Lord's day at two o'clock in the afternoon. About the time of the evening sacrifices of the various religious assemblies, while prayers were ascending from many hearts for the restoration of his health, his spirit departed to the realms of immortality.

The General Assembly, penetrated with a sense of the pre-eminent worth of this distinguished citizen, appointed a respectable Committee to attend the funeral solemnities. In behalf of the Assembly they have witnessed his interment. His body is in the grave, there to remain "till these heavens shall be no more."

We are now assembled to offer another tribute of respect to his memory. The place, the assem-

blage, the occasion, the solemn display of military mourning just now witnessed, and the still more solemn address to the throne of grace, conspire to arrest our whole attention, and fill us with sacred awe.

An affection better felt than described for the deceased while living, and for his memory since his death, has induced me to appear in this place, and to attempt a faint eulogy of his numerous virtues.

ROGER GRISWOLD was born at *Lyme* in this State, on the 21st of May, 1762. His father, the Honourable MATTHEW GRISWOLD, was for many years Lieutenant Governour of the State, and Chief Judge of the Superior Court. In 1784 he was chosen Governour.

His mother was the daughter of the Honourable ROGER WOLCOTT of *Windsor*, who was for a long period Governour, and highly respected for his talents and virtues.

The descendant of these venerable ancestors has not sullied their fair fame, but added to it a new lustre, and more indelibly stamped immortality on their names.

He was educated at *Yale College*, where he graduated in 1780. In 1783 he was admitted to the bar, where he remained an ornament to the profession, and full of business, till removed by his fellow citizens to a higher sphere of action.

In 1794 the Freemen of the State chose him a representative in Congress. This place he filled for the period of ten years, with high honour to himself, and to the great satisfaction of many eminent men in the nation.

In 1801 he was appointed by President ADAMS Secretary of War, which office he declined.

In 1807 he was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court.

In 1809 the Legislature chose him Lieutenant Governour, which office he held till May 1811, when by the suffrages of the Freemen he was elevated to the office of Governour.

To these several exalted stations he was *called* by the voice of the people. He sought no elevation. No man enjoyed a more enviable and honourable popularity than Governour GRISWOLD, for no man courted it less. He wished for popularity, for no good man is insensible to it; but it was “that popularity which follows, not that which is run after—that popularity which sooner or later never fails to do justice to the pursuit of *noble* ends by *noble* means.”

Nature was peculiarly liberal in the endowments of the body and mind of our lamented friend.—From the time of his collegiate life, to the month of January 1807, he was a monument of health.

His body was uncommonly vigorous. It seemed to the human eye, capable of the severest action; and possessing a mind alike vigorous, presented a happy illustration of what the ancients denominated the greatest earthly blessing, “a sound mind in a sound body.”

In January 1807, while arguing a cause of great expectation, and which had engaged his faculties and drawn forth high exertions, he was suddenly seized with a disease, which, in a moment, prostrated one of the noblest human fabrics. To this disease he gradually yielded till death closed the scene.

During its continuance, he was the subject of sufferings almost unequalled. His situation, especially for the last eighteen months, has been such as to have subdued a less vigorous mind and body. The frequent returns of paroxysms, which seemed more to resemble the agonies of dissolving nature than ordinary disease—the recollection of a young and numerous family of children, looking to him with the tender reliance of children on a father, forever kind, forever affectionate—the weight of a high and solemn public trust, demanding the prudence, the firmness and the wisdom of the soundest faculties, conscious that the eyes of the State were fixed on him in this hour of unprecedented embar-

rassment—all these combined, could not fail to produce the most painful anxiety. Here, however, was a happy display of his native magnanimity---his fortitude, his patience, his submission to the will of Heaven conspicuously appeared. I have witnessed his patient investigation of the most interesting questions relating to the welfare of the State, when, as my eye surveyed his feeble body, I involuntarily started back, lest the immortal and nobler part should instantaneously burst the brittle and decaying tenement.

The fervent supplications of a thousand pious hearts, the tears of friends, the power of medicine, the skill of physicians, the ardent wishes of a State and Nation could not save him. He has gone down to the grave amidst ten thousand prayers for his precious life.

A recurrence to the various stations he occupied, and his deportment therein, will afford an opportunity for a more minute survey of his character.

His admission to the bar was soon followed by distinction as an advocate. I recollect to have heard him at the early age of 26, argue a cause of importance, involving many intricate questions, before the highest Court of law. There was associated with him a gentleman of the first rank in his profession. When Mr. GRISWOLD closed his argument, his associate, who, in course, was to have followed him, observed to the Court, that after the

very able argument of the very ingenious young gentleman who had just sat down, any observations from him could answer no other purpose than to injure his client's cause. To a mind of the first order, he added a competent share of legal science. Sound discretion secured him against doing or saying any thing injurious to the cause which he espoused. The maxim of the great Roman orator,—“it is far more disgraceful to injure the cause you espouse than not to benefit it,”—no man ever more perfectly comprehended, and made more entirely his own. In this, with great propriety, he may be proposed as an example to all, especially the young of this profession.

His sagacity discovered to him the strength of his adversary. His wisdom enabled him to select the best means of attack or defence. His powers of reasoning, joined with uncommon frankness and sincerity, and a manner at once conciliating affection and commanding respect, gave him a sure passport to the understanding and the hearts of the court and jury. If he lost a cause therefore, it was because it was incapable of being gained by integrity and talents. These qualities, as will be readily seen, caused him to be both beloved and admired.

At the age of 32 he became a member of the national Councils, and during a period of ten years was not absent from his place but a single day, and that by an accident occurring on his way to the

seat of government. This period, as will be well remembered, was full of interest.—It embraced part of the administrations of WASHINGTON and JEFFERSON, and the whole of that of ADAMS. Many measures affecting the vital interests of the nation were discussed, and adopted or rejected. These originated in part out of the influence of the conflict between the European powers upon our relations with them—and in part from the change of administration at home. The spirit of party, so often and so justly denominated the bane of free governments, was now no longer controuled. The death of WASHINGTON unloosed the fell demon of discord, and it has since raged without restraint. At the mention of the name of WASHINGTON, I would enquire, if it were not impious, what must be his feelings, could his pure and exalted spirit turn from those glorious objects on which it is occupied, and for a moment take a survey of this debased, convulsed and distracted nation!

In all the important measures just named, Mr. GRISWOLD was constantly engaged. Here he acted a signal part with the most distinguished patriots of our country. Look at the journals of those days, and you will see that men from all parts of the nation, celebrated for their virtue, their knowledge and their eloquence, hailed him with pleasure as their political friend. Here too, for several of the last years of his Congressional life, he was in a minority. Obstacles, in what he viewed the path of duty,

had no terrors for him. He met them with that patience—that intrepidity—that tranquillity of soul which characterize the real great man. Like a perpendicular column, his strength increased in proportion to the weight put upon him.

In those times of animosity, he extorted even from his political adversaries, an affection for his worth, a reverence for his pre-eminent talents. In no conflict of parties were they denied, or their lustre obscured. None of his associates sought higher honour than a station side by side with him in these ranks of patriots. The people of his native state, as you well know, marked his political course, with a virtuous pride, and viewed his elevation in the estimation of his country, with triumph.

Is it asked why he was thus respected? His mind, with wonderful promptness, penetrated every subject presented to it. He saw it clearly and in all its connexions. What others gained by study and reflection he attained by intuition. Having no obliquity of intention, he went directly to his object. To that he adhered—for that he contended “like a strong man armed.” He affected nothing new—nothing singular. His life was a stranger to every thing bordering on affectation. He made no experiments. The measures which resulted from the nature of man, and their political connexions, and which had the sanction of the wisdom of ages in their favour, satisfied him.

The maxims which regulated his political life were founded on the facts, that individuals are selfish, avaricious and ambitious—that communities are composed of these individuals—that no proof is afforded of a renovation sufficiently thorough to abandon the restraints of law, or deny the necessity of providing the means of successful resistance to internal or external enemies, or to hazard the great interests of a nation upon the probability that a spirit of justice will guide the councils of others.—He was proud to acknowledge himself a disciple in the school of WASHINGTON.

In reviewing the life of Mr. GRISWOLD, during the period now mentioned, the impartial Biographer will assign him a place in the temple of fame with the most enlightened, upright and virtuous of his cotemporaries—and the time will come, it surely will arrive when his political sentiments will have their just influence in the councils of our country.

In 1807 he was called by the Legislature to fill a place on the bench of the Supreme and Superiour Court. This office he accepted at the sacrifice of far greater emoluments arising from his professional pursuits.

As a Judge, that sincerity—that incorruptible integrity which adorned his life, eminently appeared. His very respectable associates on the judgment seat, and the suitors and advocates who witnessed his deportment, will testify that all the vehemence and ardour of the advocate were left at the

bar, and that candour, patience and deliberation governed his conduct.—His discernment and virtue were a protection to the innocent—the oppressor and the fraudulent, like the wicked, were scattered with his eye. A union of justice and mercy will neither condemn the innocent, nor suffer the guilty to go unpunished.

In 1809, on the decease of Governour TRUMBULL, he was chosen Lieutenant Governour. This office, though less lucrative than that of a judge, he accepted.

Thus we have seen him repeatedly yielding to the wishes of his fellow citizens, at the expence of his pecuniary interest. Ten years of the vigour of his life were passed in Congress, to the neglect of the accumulation of property. Circumstanced as he was, with great propriety he might have addressed his fellow citizens in the language of Paul, “I have coveted no man’s silver or gold.”

In May 1811, he was chosen Governour by the freemen. This office, the first and most honourable in the State, he sustained with high and increasing reputation till death terminated his earthly career. How he has administered this Government, you my fellow citizens know. You can all testify how he laboured to promote the peace and maintain the lawful rights and privileges of this sovereign, free and independent State.

His last, his dying moments, were necessarily devoted to the public interest. Within a few

weeks he has been compelled to decide questions of the greatest magnitude, and on the decision of which mighty interests may depend. You have seen him meet these questions like himself. You have seen his letter to the Secretary of War, asserting with his dying breath, his inflexible determination to obey the constitution of the State and Nation. Standing, as it were, on the confines of two worlds, with an affecting sense of his accountability in both, he has given the testimony of a dying patriot, and left it on record, that “He would not execute any order that he judged repugnant to the constitution, from whatever source it might emanate.”

I have spoken of Governour GRISWOLD in his professional pursuits, and in his character of a Legislator and Magistrate. It remains that a suitable tribute be paid to his private virtues. Was he adorned with justice, truth, fortitude and wisdom? Under their guidance did he receive the rewards of a grateful people in the bestowment of the most honourable and important offices? Then do we expect to see in him the neighbour, the friend, the brother, the son, the father and the husband, adorned with the virtues peculiar to those relations. Nor here will our expectations be in vain. We have no proof here that there is no connexion between public and private life—that a vicious citizen may be an excellent ruler.

We will go to his neighbours—to those who have daily witnessed his demeanour in the confined spheres of domestic life. This is a source that will not deceive us. Here are no heralds to blow the trumpet of fame—no courtiers to blazon forth a thousand virtues which he never possessed—no cringing sycophants to clothe villains in the garb of integrity, and palm upon the world painted hypocrites as the most worthy of public confidence. In the absence of these detestable means of fraud and deception, the glitter of office, the splendour which surrounds those in exalted stations, often dazzles and confounds. Would you know then whether a man be sincere, humane and charitable, enquire of those who have witnessed his down sitting and uprising, not of those who have seen him merely in the senate chamber or chair of state, or who have received his salutations in the market places; but of those who have met him when going out and coming in. To these best of all witnesses we appeal. Here again the character of our beloved Chief Magistrate will not shun a comparison with those of the wise and good. See the eyes which are yet weeping in his native town. Enquire if he ever refused to contribute liberally for the promotion of objects of public utility? Ask the poor, the naked, the hungry and the friendless, if they have been sent empty away from his house, with a “be ye warmed and be ye clothed,” they will answer you with sighs and tears for the loss of their bene-

factor—ask his neighbours if, while he was invested with the robes of office, he forgot those in the humble walks of life, they will reply that they have lost a friend and a counsellor---Ask the afflicted brothers and sister how he sustained that interesting relation, they will exclaim, alas ! our brother---Ask the bereaved children to tell you their grief, they cannot answer ; “they are sorrowing most of all that they shall see his face no more.” Look at the house lately the seat of joy and rejoicing, and you will hear only the accents of lamentation and woe---Ask her “who sits solitary as a widow,” to describe her loss, she will reply, “ Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness ; have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends, for the hand of God hath touched me.”

Is it asked whether he was a christian? That is known only to God and his own heart. Those who knew him best believe that he was satisfied of the truth and divinity of the scriptures, and of the great doctrines of revelation. This they believe because they have heard it from his lips—lips which never deceived. This he declared not from ostentation, for no man was ever less ostentatious than Governour GRISWOLD. He could not declare it to deceive, for no man ever had less disguise. His tongue and his heart were never at variance. His soul abhorred the appearance of dissimulation. In these declarations, and a corresponding life, they repose with confidence.

Such was the man whose death we this day lament.—Such were his virtues as a neighbour, a

friend, a parent—a husband. Such was his life at the bar—such were his services, his exalted worth in the senate, on the seat of justice, and in the chair of state.

How shall we estimate his loss? To his family it is irreparable—to the State it as great as could have been suffered in the death of any individual. To the Nation we may truly say, “a great man hath fallen this day.” To his friends there is much solace in the knowledge that his memory, endeared to his numerous acquaintance, is embalmed in the affections of a grateful people; and his name will go down to posterity enrolled with the great, the wise and the good.

Talents directed by virtue and wisdom are extensive blessings to the public. Treasures like these far surpass in value those of silver and gold. The latter are not unfrequently the instruments of mighty mischiefs, while the former, like the sun in the heavens, appear only to animate and to bless.

The friend to his country views, in the death of such a man as Governour GRISWOLD, substantial ground of sorrow. This community sustains a heavy loss---the nation justly mourns.

These sentiments would be just in times of national prosperity. With what force then do they affect us in this day of the perplexity of nations!

At no time since the deluge has this world been so convulsed. On the continent of Europe for the last twenty years, “the confused noise of the battle of the warrior” has been every where heard, and “garments have every where been seen rolled in blood.”—The blood which has been shed has “flow-

ed up to the horse's bridles," and whole provinces are converted into Golgothas. Events stupendous in their nature have succeeded each other in rapid succession; and the wisest of men, unable to discover their causes by human research, are ready to pronounce them miracles.

The patriot has, while viewing this scene of desolation afar off, hoped that this western world might remain "unhurt amidst this war of elements." His hopes are now blasted. A war, already calamitous, and portentous of still greater evils, is waged. In every part of this great republic, evils beset us, and the prospect is every hour becoming more gloomy. An hour like this demands the wisdom of the wisest men. A grateful people spontaneously turn their eyes to the tomb of GRISWOLD, and exclaim, "The chariots of Israel and the horsemen thereof."

But we will not repine. While mingling our tears with those of the people of the State, and while sympathizing with those who bewail the sundering of the tenderest ties of nature and affection, it becomes us to bow with perfect submission to the will of Heaven. "The Judge of all the earth will do right."

My Fellow Citizens,

We are assembled to commemorate the virtues of a great and good man. To consecrate his memory is a duty which gratitude enjoins. His example also should inspire the living with a noble emulation to attain the excellence which he reached. We speak not to him—we shall see his face no more. The darkness of death conceals him from our eyes. We speak of him—we cherish

with the best affections of our hearts his well earned fame;—because we would not be ungrateful, and because we would exhibit an example worthy of imitation.

In contemplating the life of our friend, how much instruction is imparted to survivors! Are there in this numerous assembly many who are now just entering on that profession which he adorned?—to you we present an advocate for a model. His probity, his industry in understanding his client's cause, his luminous arrangement, his clear and persuasive reasoning, his abhorrence of every thing which in the view of honourable men would reflect disgrace on the profession, should be remembered as among the means of becoming truly eminent. Are there not those uniting in the solemnities of this day who intend to devote their talents to the state and nation in directing their councils? Review the life of Gov. GRISWOLD while in Congress. He made himself master of the measures of our national government from its first operation. He perfectly understood all its complicated movements. No mechanic was ever more thoroughly acquainted with the various parts of his machine. This knowledge, with a strong judgment and clear perception, enabled him to see and pronounce on the true policy of the nation. When, therefore, he spoke, he was listened to with profound attention. His influence was not exceeded by that of any other man. His political enemies awarded to him the praise of acting uprightly, and under the direction of an enlightened mind. Do you ask if he was eloquent? He sought none of the blandishing arts of persua-

sion. He never spoke to invite his hearers to look at *him*, or regard the tones of his voice. He spoke plain, yet forcible language, in a plain and natural manner. He pronounced important truths, that that they might be understood and regarded. He spoke to secure the interests of his country, not to be pronounced an orator.

In the still more important characters of Judge and Chief Magistrate, he is a like pattern of superiour excellence. Had he friends in whom he confided, and whom he loved—whom he met without reserve, and to whom his heart was ever open? Yes, as many who hear me now are proud to testify. But as the head and representative of this commonwealth, he had no *favourites*. His duty was paramount to all partial and private interests. This he performed fearlessly in the face of the world; he made no professions of superiour integrity, nor of the purity of his views, nor of great zeal for the public good; but his administration was an affecting appeal to heaven,—“Till I die, I will not remove mine integrity from me—my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.” He has received his earthly reward, for “when the ear heard him, it blessed him—when the eye saw him, it gave witness to him. His judgment was as a robe and a diadem.”

And now, my friends, shall such a character be presented on this occasion, and in this place, without inspiring a noble emulation? Shall they to whom is confided the solemn duties of providing for the peace, honour and safety of this State, receive no instruction in the death of their illustrious

Chief? Do they who compose this General Assembly, aspire to the honour of serving their country in places of trust—do they wish for a name which shall outlive the ensigns of power—especially are they ambitious of the greatest glory of man, doing good, and do they ask for the road? Let us go to the GRAVE OF GRISWOLD;—dark and gloomy as it is, there is a lamp lighted up, directing our feet in the path of true glory and honour.

We have seen a fellow citizen in the meridian of life, full of honours, while forming plans for the education and happiness of a numerous family, and for the peace and prosperity of the State, “cut down and withered like grass.” Are not a thousand tongues ready in this house to attest the truth of revelation, and pronounce “verily man at his best estate is altogether vanity.” Nor is this a solitary example of this truth. This occasion is the *second* within three years, in which we have witnessed the place of Governour vacant by death. While the wounds made by the death of Governour TRUMBULL were as yet open, they are caused to bleed anew. Rarely has a state been called to bewail the loss of two such excellent men in so short a period. They will be followed by those who have been associated with them. In the inconsiderable space of twenty or twenty-five years, our State and National Legislature, our Courts of Justice, and all the departments of Government, change their occupants, at the command of the angel of death.—These will all meet in a far more illustrious assembly, at a far more glorious tribunal than this world ever witnessed.

Shall this occasion pass without an attempt in the speaker to inspire this whole assembly with new and more unceasing efforts in behalf of our beloved country? It is a "day of darkness, of clouds and and thick darkness." The most enlightened heads are bewildered at the great events every where disclosed;—dismay fills the countenances—the stoutest hearts are appalled. The resources of our country exhausted—its commerce annihilated—internal divisions embittering private life, and spreading a leprosy over the whole body politic—a frontier of great extent exposed to the enemy. Already has the war-whoop of the savage awaked the infant in his cradle—the delicate female, flying from the brutal savage, faints to see her husband bleeding under the scalping knife and tomahawk. The eye is pained at the sight, and the heart is sickened.

The remedies for these mighty evils are not at our command. To the nation is entrusted these momentous concerns. True—But we have a vine to protect, which our fathers planted. We have an inheritance fairer than merchandize, farms, and "cattle on a thousand hills"—an inheritance of institutions, civil, social and religious, calculated to make us wiser and better. This inheritance was purchased by some of the best blood of the best men;—it is consecrated by the tears and prayers of our fathers. It is in jeopardy—so it has been a thousand times. It has been rescued hitherto, and preserved "until the indignation hath passed by." This inheritance is committed to you—it is a precious deposit. By your veneration for your ances-

tors—by your reverence for these institutions—by your affection for the memory of the “best of patriots and most beloved of citizens,” I conjure you to defend and transmit to your children, inviolate, this glorious inheritance. “Though a host should encamp against us, yet will we not fear.”



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